



# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **San Bernardino County Fire Ready to Respond Thanks Residents for their Vigilance**

It could have been much worse. With the high temperatures, high winds, and low humidity, Southern California is ripe for a wildland fire. This past weekend, the National Weather Service issued a Red Flag Warning for most of San Bernardino County, with anticipated wind gusts upward to 60 MPH along the foothills, valleys and mountains.

Winds in San Bernardino County started increasing Friday and continued blowing until Sunday evening. San Bernardino County Fire was ready and geared up for the anticipated Santa Ana winds; moving additional equipment into high fire prone areas, providing additional staffing at a majority of County fire stations, with an emphasis on the high wind prone areas.

San Bernardino County fared pretty well but not without its challenges. San Bernardino County Fire responded to 10 vegetation fires in the Valley area and 1 in the mountains. With the additional staffing, fire crews were able to contain and extinguish the fires quickly; with the largest fire burning 3 ½ acres west of Crestline.

“We thank the public for their vigilance and preparation for a wildland fire.” stated Fire Chief Mark Hartwig.

As we approach the 10 year anniversary of the Old and Grand Prix Fires that burned over 151,000 acres and destroyed 1,100 businesses and homes in San Bernardino County, residents recall just how devastating a wildland fire can be especially flared by the Santa Ana winds. Coupled with the two devastating fires that roared through a portion of the San Bernardino Mountains, burning over 13,000 acres, destroying over 335 homes and damaging over 80 others on October 22, 2007, residents and visitors alike are more alert and watchful of fire starts. With awareness of just how quickly Santa Ana winds can fan a fire, residents are taking measures to ensure they have the proper defensible space and clearance around their homes.

“Fire is and always has been a natural part of our landscape and is now a year-round reality in San Bernardino County.” stated Fire Chief Mark Hartwig. “This means that both firefighters and residents have to be on heightened alert for the threat of wildfire. During a major fire, fire resources are maximized, especially in the early stages, therefore it is imperative citizens become a part of the overall strategy to provide community safety. It’s evident that San Bernardino County residents are up to the challenge and are taking steps to being prepared before a wildland fire occurs, especially our mountain residents.”

The height of fire season in San Bernardino County is upon us. Residents are urged to take action now in preparing their home and surrounding area. With advance planning and preparation, you can dramatically increase your safety and the survivability of your property. Visit [www.sbcfire.org/fire\\_prevention\\_advice.aspx](http://www.sbcfire.org/fire_prevention_advice.aspx) to learn how to make your home defensible against fires. The Ready! Set! Go! Personal Wildfire Action Plan gives you the tips and tools to successfully prepare for a wildfire.